

REMARKS

This application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The Official Action rejects claims 23, 25, 26, 29, and 42-45 under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over CHILDS et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

The CHILDS reference relates not to a cloth for dry-cleaning, but rather a fabric for imparting fabric treatment to clothing, as is clearly demonstrated by at least the title of this reference. Contrary to the assertions in the Office action, this reference is directed to articles which "can be used for imparting the fabric treatment composition to fabric (clothes) to provide, but not limited to, softening and/or antistatic effects to fabric in an automatic laundry dryer." (col. 3, lines 54-57). As is clear from this passage of the reference, the reference discloses a material that has exactly a characteristic that is contrary to that of the applicant's invention, as disclosed and recited.

Moreover, Applicant has amended independent claim 23 to further recite that at least 3% of the surface of the material is formed by fibers with finer deniers or counts, and the electrostatic charge is at least 1 Volt. These features were originally recited in claims 25 and 28, which claims did not exist

in a single chain of dependency. Accordingly, the full set of features has not yet been presented during prosecution.

As the reference neither discloses, teaches, nor suggests the features of the claims in their current form, Applicant respectfully suggests that the present rejection cannot be maintained.

The Official Action rejects claims 23, 39, and 40 under 35 USC §102(e), or, in the alternative, under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over PEREIRA et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

As discussed above, applicant has amended independent claim 23 to incorporate the features of original claims 25 and 28. The PEREIRA et al. reference similarly fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the full set of features now recited in amended independent claim 23. Moreover, the applied reference concerns itself with absorbent articles made from a non-woven fabric. Accordingly, the disclosures of such reference are directed to an entirely different subject from that recited in the present claims.

The Official Action rejects claims 23 and 24 under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over GROTHEN et al. Reconsideration and

withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

As discussed above, applicant has amended independent claim 23 to incorporate the features of original claims 25 and 28. Such combination of features, which has not been presented in the claims up to this point, is neither disclosed, taught, nor suggested by the applied GROTHEN et al. reference. Such applied reference describes a material having a non-woven lap, and having textile and mechanical characteristics similar to those of woven and knit textile products. These characteristics are specifically described in column 1, lines 14-20 of the reference.

The reference fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the full set of features now recited in amended independent claim 23 and implicitly recited in the claims that depend therefrom.

The Official Action rejects claims 27, 28, 30-38, and 41 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over GROTHEN et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

Applicant notes that each of the rejected claims depends either directly or through intervening claims from independent claim 23. As discussed in detail above, applicant has amended claim 23 to include the features previously recited in claims 25 and 28. The combination of features now recited in amended claim 23 and implicitly recited in each of the rejected claims is

neither taught nor suggested by the applied GROTON et al. reference.

In summarizing both the recited features of the invention as now claimed as well as the shortcomings of the various applied references, applicant notes that the principal aim of the invention is to provide a cloth for the dry-cleaning of surfaces, said cloth being made of a non-woven fabric material which has an autonomous capacity to acquire an electrostatic charge, without the use of auxiliary or additional chemical products in relation to the fibers of which said material is made (page 2, second paragraph of the specification as filed).

This aim is not achieved by PEREIRA et al., which is clearly directed to a solution to the problem of decreasing fluid retention in disposable absorbent products, without the softness of the fabric being decreased, thus avoiding uncomfortable skin-contacting covering products (col. 1, lines 6-8, 34-43).

The problem solved by the invention is discussed neither by GROTON et al., the aim of which is that of providing non-woven materials showing textile and mechanical characteristic similar to those of woven and knit textile products, while preserving the advantageous properties and characteristics of continuous filament non-wovens (col. 1, lines 15-20, 33-36).

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been

placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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